

COMMUNITY PROSECUTION



Community prosecution focuses on targeted areas and involves a long-term proactive partnership between the prosecutor's office, law enforcement, the community, and public and private organizations. It involves combining the efforts of the prosecutor and community members to identify community problems to prevent crime and blight.

The Community Prosecution Unit of the District Attorney's Office works to solve problems, promote public safety, and enhance the quality of life in the area where the community prosecutor is assigned.

WHAT DO COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS DO?

- Prosecute quality-of-life crimes, including trespassing, vandalism, graffiti, drug activity, prostitution, illegal lodging, loitering with the specific intent to commit drug activity or prostitution, and disturbing the peace.
- Work directly with police officers and community members in targeted areas to solve quality-of-life crime problems.
- Listen to community members' public safety concerns and take those concerns to the courthouse through community victim impact statements.
- Participate in neighborhood meetings that address crime and quality-of-life issues.
- Serve as a prosecutorial resource to police officers and community members.
- Develop and implement innovative strategies to educate the public about the criminal justice system and to prevent crimes.

HOW CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS HELP THE PROBLEM-SOLVING EFFORT?

- Get involved in local police problem-solving meetings.
- Share information with the community prosecutors.
- Call the police if you witness a crime, and work with the community prosecutors to ensure that offenders are held accountable.
- Visit the City of San Bernardino Community Oriented Police Station located at 334 West Baseline, San Bernardino to receive community problem-solving resources.

Mission Statement

The Neighborhood Prosecution Unit of the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office works in partnership with the San Bernardino Police Department, other agencies, and the community to aggressively and creatively combat crimes that impact our quality of life.

* * * * *

Neighborhood Prosecution involves the following nine components:

- A proactive approach;
- A clearly defined target area;
- Problem solving, public safety, and quality of life issues;
- The direct interaction between the prosecutor and the community and the incorporation of the community's input into the courtroom;
- Partnerships among the prosecutor, law enforcement, public and private agencies, and the community;
- Long-term strategies;
- The commitment of policy makers;
- Varied enforcement methods; and
- Continuous evaluation.

American Prosecutors Research Institute

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

San Bernardino County has a Victim Services Unit that may help with:

- Crisis intervention;
- Counseling;
- Emergency assistance with food, clothing, and shelter;
- Help in filing claims;
- Referral to community programs;
- Transportation to court; and
- Obtaining Restraining Orders

For More Information, Contact:

**San Bernardino County
District Attorney's Office
Community Prosecution Unit
(909) 891-3339**



INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNITY PROSECUTION

“Together, we can work to improve the quality of life for *everyone* and make San Bernardino a place we are *proud* to call home.”

**MICHAEL A. RAMOS
District Attorney
San Bernardino County**

Updated August 12, 2002